Lydia Villa-Komaroff is a molecular biologist, an executive, and a diversity advocate. She is founder of Intersections, SBD Consulting and a current board member and former CEO and CSO of Cytonome/ST, LLC, a company developing and manufacturing purpose-built cell sorters. She also serves on the boards of ATCC, a private, nonprofit biological resource center and research organization, the Keck Graduate Institute, the Understanding Interventions Advisory Board, and the Boston-based Biomedical Science Careers Program. She is the CEOSE Liaison to the Advisory Council of the NSF Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences. She is a founding member of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS); the Society is the recipient of the National Science Board's Public Service Award for contributions (2002) and the national Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (2004). She has been a board member and Vice President of SACNAS and serves as a member of the Committee of Senior Advisors and the nominating committee.

Dr. Villa-Komaroff held faculty positions at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Children's Hospital, Boston, and Harvard Medical School. She served as Vice President for Research at Northwestern University in Illinois and Vice President for Research and Chief Operating Officer of the Whitehead Institute (Cambridge, MA). She served on the board of the Massachusetts Life Science Center (Gubernatorial appointment), Transkaryotic Therapies, Inc., a publicly-traded biopharmaceutical company, and was non-executive Chair of the Board before it was acquired by Shire Pharmaceuticals. She also served on the board of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and on the Advisory Councils for National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, the Biology Directorate of the NSF, and the National Academies Committee on Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine.

Dr. Villa-Komaroff is a fellow of AAAS and the Association for Women in Science (AWIS). She has been honored by election to the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Hall of Fame, a Lifetime Achievement Award by Hispanic Business Magazine, selection as 2008 Hispanic Scientist of the Year by the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa, Florida, 2013 Woman of Distinction by the American Association of University Women, and is the 2016 recipient of the Elting Morison prize from the MIT Program in Science and Technology.

She received her BA from Goucher College and her Ph.D. in Cell Biology from MIT; her advisors were David Baltimore and Harvey Lodish. As a postdoc in Walter Gilbert’s laboratory, she was lead author of a landmark paper reporting the first synthesis of mammalian insulin in bacterial cells. During her career as a bench scientist, she focused on using the methods of recombinant DNA to address a number of fundamental questions in collaboration with neurologists, developmental biologists, endocrinologists, and cell biologists including studies of the insulin-like growth factors in developing tissues, the role of peptide sequence of the proinsulin c-peptide in insulin secretion, the connection between sensory experience and gene expression during the development of the visual cortex, and the first demonstration of the toxicity of amyloid in neural cells.